

## AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of monitoring at least one computer network ~~from a remote location~~, comprising:

benchmark-testing the at least one computer network with test data to obtain benchmark test results relating to data storage traffic from a first site passing over a wide area network to a second site;

electronically forwarding the benchmark test results to a remote services site separate from the first site and the second site;

periodically operational-testing the at least one computer network with sample data provided from the remote location sent from the first site to the second site over the wide area network to obtain operational test result, wherein the operational-testing is performed while the at least one computer network is carrying live data storage traffic;

electronically forwarding the results of the operational-testing to the remote services site; and

comparing at the remote services site the operational test results to the benchmark test results to determine network degradation.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the benchmark-testing is performed when the at least one computer network is initialized.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the benchmark-testing includes emulating a production environment.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein emulating the production environment includes generating variations in bandwidth.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the benchmark testing is performed continuously for twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the benchmark-testing is a looping test.

7.     **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the benchmark-testing includes a computer connected to the at least one computer network in addition to the remote site, wherein the computer pushes and pulls test data.
8.     **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the benchmark-testing is performed while the at least one computer network is not carrying live data storage traffic.
9.     **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the operational-testing is performed at regular intervals.
10.    **(Original)** The method of claim 9 wherein the operational-testing is performed once every hour.
11.    **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the remote location is operably coupled to the at least one computer network via the Internet.
12.    **(Cancelled)**
13.    **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sample data is attached to the live data storage traffic.
14.    **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sample data rides along with the live data storage traffic.